

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method, comprising:
receiving programming content from a plurality of broadcasters at a broadcast center;
recording at least a portion of the programming content in a storage device;
broadcasting the programming content to a plurality of client terminals at a broadcast time;
retrieving at least one piece of programming content from the storage device in response to user-specified preferences; and
transmitting the at least one piece of programming content to a location remote from a recording location at a time different from the broadcast time.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising: detecting information that accompanies the programming content to determine whether to record the portion of the programming content.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the information comprises triggers.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the location remote from the recording location comprises an originating broadcaster.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the location remote from the recording location comprises a parent network.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the location remote from the recording location comprises an interactive television service.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the interactive television service is maintained in a common facility with the recording location.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein the remote location comprises a content provider communicatively coupled to the broadcast center.
9. The method of claim 1, wherein recording at least a portion of the programming content includes converting the programming content into a streaming data format.
10. The method of claim 1, wherein recording at least a portion of the programming content comprises responding to a record-request from a service provider.
11. The method of claim 10, wherein the service provider comprises a second broadcast center.
12. The method of claim 10, wherein the service provider comprises an originating broadcaster.
13. The method of claim 10, wherein the service provider comprises a parent network.
14. The method of claim 10, wherein the service provider comprises an interactive television service.
15. The method of claim 10, wherein the service provider comprises a content provider communicatively connected to the broadcast center.
16. The method of claim 1, wherein retrieving at least one piece of programming content includes correlating the user-specified preferences with stored information, the stored information corresponding to the piece of programming content to be retrieved.
17. A method, comprising:

receiving programming content from a plurality of broadcasters at a broadcast center;

recording at least one piece of the programming content in a storage device in response to a record-request from at least one user;

broadcasting the programming content to the plurality of client terminals at a broadcast time;

retrieving the at least one piece of the programming content from the storage device in response to user-specified preferences; and

transmitting the at least one piece of the programming content to the at least one user at a time different from the broadcast time.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the at least one user comprises a service provider communicatively coupled to the broadcast center.

19. A method, comprising:
receiving programming content from a plurality of broadcasters at a broadcast center;

converting the programming content into a streaming data format;
recording at least a portion of the programming content in a storage device;
broadcasting the programming content to a plurality of client terminals;
retrieving at least one piece of programming content from the storage device in response to user-specified preferences; and

transmitting the at least one piece of programming content to an interactive television service to allow access to the at least one piece of programming content via a network.

20. A broadcast center, comprising:

a server, the server including:

a processor;

a storage interface coupled to the processor;

a communications interface coupled to the processor, the communications interface being configured to receive programming content from a plurality of broadcasters; and

a memory, coupled to the processor, to store a plurality of machine instructions; and

a storage device, coupled to the server, to store the programming content; and

wherein execution of the machine instructions by the processor causes the server

to:

receive the programming content from the plurality of broadcasters via a first communications link;

record at least a portion of the programming content in the storage device at a recording location;

broadcast the programming content to a plurality of client terminals via a second communications link;

retrieve at least one piece of programming content from the storage device in response to user-specified preferences; and

transmit the at least one piece of programming content to a location remote from the recording location.

21. The broadcast center of claim 20, wherein execution of the machine instructions by the processor further causes the server to detect information that accompanies the programming content to determine whether to record the portion of the programming content.

22. The broadcast center of claim 21, wherein the information comprises triggers.

23. The broadcast center of claim 20, wherein the remote location comprises at least one of the plurality of broadcasters from which the programming content was received.

24. The broadcast center of claim 20, wherein the remote location comprises a parent network of at least one of the plurality of broadcasters from which the programming content was received.

25. The broadcast center of claim 20, wherein the remote location comprises an interactive television service.

26. The broadcast center of claim 20, wherein recording at least a portion of the programming content includes converting the programming content into a streaming data format.

27. The broadcast center of claim 20, wherein recording at least a portion of the programming content comprises, responding to a record-request received from a service provider via a third communications link.

28. The broadcast center of claim 20, wherein retrieving at least one piece of programming content includes correlating the user-specified preferences with stored information, the stored information corresponding to the piece of programming content to be retrieved.

29. An article of manufacture, comprising:

a machine-readable medium including instructions stored thereon, to:

receive programming content from a plurality of broadcasters at a broadcast center;

record at least a portion of the programming content in a storage device at a recording location;

broadcast the programming content to a plurality of client terminals at a broadcast time;

retrieve at least one piece of programming content from the storage device in response to user-specified preferences; and

transmit the at least one piece of programming content to a location remote from the recording location at a time different from the broadcast time.

30. The article of manufacture of claim 29, wherein the machine-readable medium further includes instructions to detect information that accompanies the programming content to determine whether to record the portion of the programming content.

31. The article of manufacture of claim 30, wherein the information comprises triggers.

32. The article of manufacture of claim 29, wherein the remote location comprises an originating broadcaster.

33. The article of manufacture of claim 29, wherein the remote location comprises a parent network.

34. The article of manufacture of claim 29, wherein the remote location comprises an interactive television service.

35. The article of manufacture of claim 29, wherein recording at least a portion of the programming content includes converting the programming content into a streaming data format.

36. The article of manufacture of claim 29, wherein recording at least a portion of the programming content comprises responding to a record-request from a service provider.

37. The article of manufacture of claim 29, wherein retrieving at least one piece of programming content includes correlating the user-specified preferences with stored information, the stored information corresponding to the piece of programming content to be retrieved.

38. A method, comprising:
receiving programming content from a plurality of broadcasters at a broadcast center via a communications link;

recording at least a portion of the programming content in a storage device;

broadcasting the programming content as an original broadcast to a plurality of client terminals at a broadcast time;

transmitting a request for at least one piece of programming content to the broadcast center from at least one service provider via the communications link, wherein the at least one piece of programming content comprises programming content included in the original broadcast;

retrieving the at least one piece of programming content from the storage device;

transmitting the at least one piece of programming content to at least one service provider at a time different from the broadcast time; and

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